

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Zeke

Page 2



COMMUNITY

Monson bee dispute

Page 2



SPORTS

Letendre earns Bailey Award

Page 7

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

December 09, 2021 | Vol. CLXX, No. 45 | \$1.00

www.journalregister.turley.com

HOLIDAYS

Ring in Christmas 2021



Turley Publications photos by Michael Harrison
At the Stuff the Cruiser toy drive, Jay Demore, Officer Chris Melnick, Aiden Szenda, Lori Chiacchia, Lianna Carrasquillo, Bella Nompoggi, George Richardson, Mary Lee Fryeryk, Police Chief Chris Burns, and Dispatcher Samantha Cusson in front of just some of the hundreds of toys donated.



PALMER — No less than four events were held over the weekend to usher in the Christmas season in town. On Saturday, the second annual Santa Elves of Palmer Stuff the Cruiser toy drive was held at the Palmer Police Department; Down the block, the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center hosted its ninth annual Tree and Wreath Festival.

A little girl checks out the ornaments on one of the trees at the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center Tree and Wreath Festival.



Michael Rondeau creates an ice sculpture of a train at Light Up Palmer.

(which continues this weekend); Later Saturday afternoon, Light Up Palmer drew a festive crowd to Depot Park; And on Sunday afternoon, Santa and Mrs. Claus made a jolly appearance in Hryniewicz Park courtesy of the Three Rivers Fire Dept. See more photos on page 5, 6, 12.

Turley Publications photo by Kayleigh Thomas
Everly Oullette poses with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus at Hryniewicz Park.



CRIME

Hit and run victim was 'a friend to everyone'

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

PALMER — Every day, Luann Lauzier, who works at Bay-state Wing, takes her break to eat her lunch outside by her truck. And every day, she would see Joseph Labroad, accompanied by his little dog, Sammy, on their walks.

The two struck up a friendship and talked daily. She started keeping dog treats in her truck for Sammy and last week, Lauzier was planning on bringing Labroad, who lived with his wife in a housing complex nearby, an umbrella designed specifically for dog walkers. Then on Nov. 30, around 1 p.m., Sammy ran home alone.

Labroad had been struck by a car in what police are calling a fatal hit and run incident on North Main Street, close to his home. Labroad,

badly injured, died at the scene.

He was 74.

Police identified the driver as 33 year-old Nicole Matanes of Palmer. She was arrested a short time later at FitClub Gym on the Palmer/Monson border, where she worked as general manager. Matanes has been charged with multiple crimes, including vehicular homicide and driving while impaired, and has been in police custody since. She was arraigned Dec. 1 in Palmer District Court, when a dangerousness hearing was scheduled for Dec. 9.

"I met him about a year-and-a-half ago and we talked daily," Lauzier, a Ware resident, said.

"He was a really nice guy. He had a heart of gold and was a friend to everyone he met. If you were sick, or you needed something he would walk to the store for you. Joe was the kind of person who



Facebook photo
Nicole Matanes

would literally give you the shirt off his back. Just a great guy and someone I looked forward to talking to every day."

Lauzier said she talked to Labroad's neighbors just after the accident and was told Sammy came running home alone, which alerted the community that something happened to him during their walk.

"Sammy ran home to get help. I just hoped he wasn't hurt that bad and then I heard the news and it's just unreal," she said.

According to his obituary posted at ludlowfuneralhome.com, Labroad was a native of Springfield, a veteran who served in the U.S. Navy and until his retirement, was a furniture refinisher who worked for over 25 years at Demos and Son and at American Refinishing.

ACCIDENT | page 3

GOVERNMENT

Town's focus on fixing bridges expected to pay dividends

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

PALMER — Bridges are often invoked as a metaphor, but in their physical form, they can be rather essential — especially in a town dissected by rivers and railroad tracks.

As important as bridges are for connectivity and local traffic flow, they can also be the key that unlocks commerce. Take for instance the Thorndike Energy Mill Complex. It's been nearly 20 years since it was used for manufacturing, turning out egg cartons. Now housing some office space, the property has been approved for a cannabis cultivation operation expected to create jobs, local investment, and generally reinvigorate the local economy.

Its success, however, will depend in no small measure on reliable bridges. Which makes it a prime example of how a relatively

modest investment by the Town of Palmer and a large investment by the Commonwealth in the town's infrastructure could make a difference that lasts a generation or more.

The first phase of a plan to replace the Church Street bridge, closed since 2019, is moving forward with an expected reopening in 2023. With an earmark of more than \$1 million by the town and a \$280,000 state grant, the town plans to systematically repair or replace all five of its deteriorating bridges. The Commonwealth has committed to covering all the subsequent costs, which amounts to millions in public spending for Palmer's infrastructure.

"The successful grant I wrote was the design basis for the project," Town Planner Linda Leduc said.

"This was a grant offered

BRIDGE | page 3

HEALTH

Open house canceled over pandemic fears

By Michel Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

MONSON — A Monson Historical Society event scheduled for Sunday has been canceled because of the persistent COVID-19 pandemic.

The Historical Society had been planning to hold a Holiday Open House at the Jacob Thompson House Museum on Main Street. The group was hoping to show off its holiday-themed decorations and the fruits of a restoration project that included period appropriate wallpaper and window treatments.

It was also an opportunity for residents and others to learn more about the museum and house, which

OPEN HOUSE | page 3

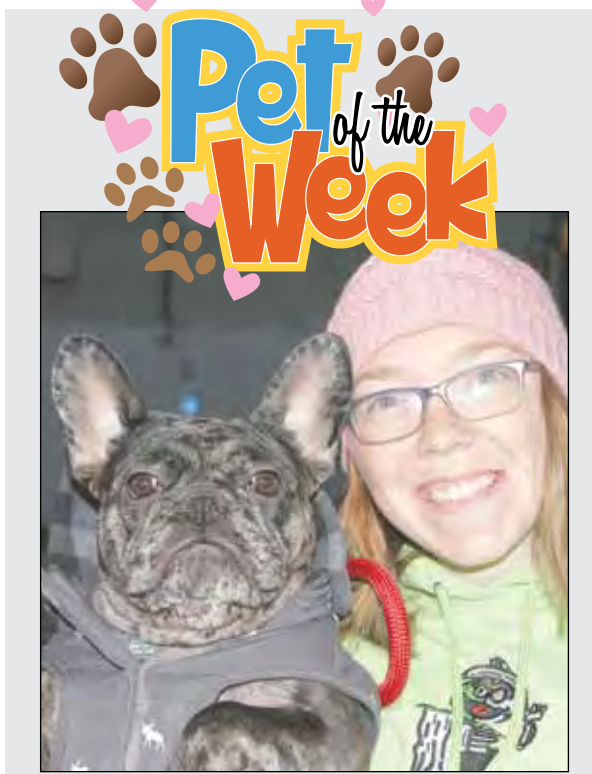


Join The Annual Ware MAIN STREET STROLL

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ZEKE

A French Bulldog shown here with his mom, Amanda. Zeke is still practically a pup at 1 year old. They live in Palmer.

Do you have a pet that makes your life special? We feature your pets here and on Facebook every week. Just email a high-quality jpg and some information, including your pet's name, your name, and town, to mharrison@turley.com.

Monson student's drive in need of 'One warm coat'

MONSON — Now until Dec. 17, Monson resident and Pope Francis Preparatory school senior Madeline Ladew will be hosting a coat drive. Donations will benefit Springfield Rescue Mission (springfieldrescuemission.org).

Gently worn coat donations for all ages (no holes or stains please!) may be dropped off at the Monson Free library, Monson Savings Bank (01057 location only), and at Saint Patrick Church.

Maddie's coat drive is being coordinated with the non-profit One Warm Coat organization. One Warm Coat has hosted more than 40,000 coat drives and have given away 6.9 million coats across the United States since 1992. More information on One Warm Coat can be found at onewarmcoat.org.



Turley Publications file photo

Tammy Lee McCaffery tends to bees outside her Monson home. Town officials said the hives must be removed because the property doesn't have the requisite space.

Monson residents ordered to get rid of their bees

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON — After a Sept. 23 Zoning Board of Appeals hearing, Monson neighbors Roxanne Gunther and James O'Connell both left unsatisfied, since a decision on whether or not O'Connell and his partner Tammy Lee McCaffery can keep honeybees on their property was put on hold.

Gunther had been asking the town since last spring to rule on her contention that her neighbors were keeping bees in violation of state and local code. She said she's not against bee keeping, only that O'Connell and McCaffery don't have the requisite space for agriculture zoning and their bees have been a nuisance. The neighbors have been involved in a variety of disputes over the years.

Gunther's stance on the issue was based on the assertion that the United States Department of Agriculture states honeybees are considered livestock and animals

are not to be housed within 75 feet of any lot line. In the September meeting, Gunther also said O'Connell has a one-quarter acre of land, a house, driveway, and three sheds in a tiny space where he keeps his five-honeybee hives.

The reason for why the decision was put on hold was because the board had to decide whether the bees were considered livestock and were causing a zoning issue or not. During the Oct. 28 meeting, a decision was made.

In a 2-1 vote, the honeybees were determined to be considered livestock and need to be placed on property with an acre and-a-half. Because of this decision, O'Connell and McCaffery have been ordered to get rid of their bee hives.

McCaffery said as of now, there has not been any action taken and she and O'Connell are waiting to see what the town's next step will be.

"The next step [for us] is getting higher-ups to help all of us beekeepers prove that we can have

our bees in a farming community and they're not livestock," McCaffery said.

"Bees are very important to the world and the community for gardening and harvesting foods and flowers. It can be a wonderful hobby that is very rewarding to save a dying breed. It's an almost extinct animal. I still get people calling me asking for honey and I tell them we don't have it anymore. I feel devastated."

Gunther said she is satisfied with the board's decision.

"I am glad this part of the battle is over," Gunther said.

"I'm still taking him to court, but that's a whole other issue. He just continues doing things and I just keep doing what I can legally, because that's how I do things. Hopefully, he's not going to get horses or pigs or something else. He just keeps thinking he has a farm. He should sell his property and go buy a farm. Somewhere else in the country somewhere with acreage."

Make it a catastic Christmas by adopting a special kitty from HTAT

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

BRIMFIELD — Here Today Adopted Tomorrow is offering the opportunity for residents to have some company as they embrace this upcoming winter weather through the Empty the Shelters holiday event.

This event is run by the Bissell Pet Foundation, which is collaborating with several animal

shelters across the country and is sponsoring reduced adoption fees. This event began in 2016, as an effort to encourage families to adopt a pet. HTAT will be participating in this event through Dec. 12 and will be offering fee-waived adoptions for all of their senior cats, spirit cats and special needs cats, as well as any adult cats who have been up for adoption for more than 30 days.

Executive Director of HTAT Rachael Max said they have collaborated with Bissell for quite some time and have also received financial assistance from them, so they can spay and neuter local pets. She also said they were invited to work with the pet foundation, to get some cats in the homes of local residents this holiday.

"We decided now would be a good time to do this," Max said.

"We'd like to get our special needs cats and senior cats into a home because they sometimes stay here a little longer than the other cats. People are a little nervous to take them home and they think that they'll be hard or won't be around as long."

Max also said it's a great time for residents to open their hearts and open their homes to someone. "We see people coming in all the time and they usually want the kitten," Max said.

"Sometimes, it's just really nice to look at what's on the inside and not what's on the outside and recognize that they're call cats. All cats want long and area looking for the same, just a place to call home."

HTAT is located at 180 Sturbridge Rd. For more information on Empty the Shelters, visit heretodaysanctuary.org.

Celebrate Christmas in story and song

MONSON — The First Church of Monson at 5 High Street invites everyone to join with them to Celebrate Christmas in story and song.

Led by the First Church Music Committee, the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 26, will feature the telling of the stories of several Christmas carols, the reading of poetry, and the singing of seasonal favorites. After the service, light refreshments will be served in fellowship hall.

EDUCATION

School Committee agrees on a new marking system for Palmer High

By Kayleigh Thomas
Correspondent

PALMER — During a school committee meeting on Dec. 1, the graduation requirements for the new student guardian handbook were discussed in greater detail.

Changes already approved during the Oct. 20 meeting included the math program increasing from three to four credits and the social studies program decreasing from four to three credits, in order to meet the MassCore requirements. An undeclared decision involved the marking system at Palmer High School.

There was debate as to whether or not to change letter grade D scores from 65 to 69 to scores of 60 to 69, and to redefine letter grade F from 64 to 59 and below.

To be more consistent with the majority of Massachusetts school districts, the Academic Council recommended the change to the marking system.

Palmer High Principal and Academic Council member Susan North said, "these points can help to decrease the annual dropout rate, which is one of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education accountability indicators for the district."

For the 2019-'20 school year the dropout rate for Palmer High was 2%. Chairperson Bonny Rathbone discussed previous research made by the academic council.

"For the last school year, 2020-'21, 13 students lost credit, but that did not affect their graduation," North responded, "we worked with them all the way up until the last minute on doing credit recovery in order for them to get credit. It was pretty stressful for them."

Rathbone added, "when I looked at the figures of the number of students in the high school that percent-

age for 13 students losing a credit would be 5%, which I don't think is a huge percentage and did not affect their graduation."

Academic council data indicates that this percentage includes students in grades nine through 12, and not just seniors seeking graduation.

At Palmer schools, Rathbone said, students are taught a strong curriculum and are pushed to succeed rather than be enabled. Palmer High School currently holds four, 85-minute classes a day, in contrast to other high school districts that maintain seven class periods per day.

Rathbone said, "when nine students are in a class for 85 minutes I know knowing the excellent staff members we have at Palmer High School that the teachers must be working not only to present the knowledge, but to also remediate and help the students."

A total of 83 staff members work

with 567 students.

"I feel that's a great student-teacher, student-staff member ratio," Rathbone said.

"I just don't understand why we don't have enough confidence in our students and staff members that we will stay where we are with the grading system."

Vice-Chairperson Sandra Noonan agreed with Rathbone.

"I remember before I retired, which is almost five years, the big word was 'rigor,'" she said.

"I just think in so many ways we are getting away from that. And I don't think that is a good thing."

Joseph Nompoggi disagreed.

"I think it standardizes things," he said.

"I think it should've been changed a long time ago. I think it's been exaggerated a little bit. A lot of people are saying we are going to pass everyone; No — we are going to pass

people that are doing 60 percent of the work."

Superintendent Patricia Gardner brought into discussion how the scoring of 60 to 65 consists of a small number of students.

"I think when we look at those five points and we think of who it affects, students who are highly motivated aren't in that range," she said.

North argued how transfer students will have their credits reviewed by the guidance department and a challenge can arise if the marking system remains the same.

Following all the comments, the school committee was asked to vote on whether or not to include the changes to the marking system in the student handbook for 2021-'22. Three members voted in favor, with two voting against.

Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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\$35 per year pre-paid
(\$40 out of state)
Newsstand: \$1.00 per copy

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DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

Time has a way of changing things...

With the passing of another year, we reflect on the events that changed our lives—some of them good, but for some, there have been better years. Fortunately, time has a way of healing, and letting us go forward—a promise of better years to come. Whatever last year brought you, we want you to know our family's thoughts are with you for a healthy and happy New Year.

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The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

ACCIDENT ■ from page 1

According to the court docket, an off-duty police officer spotted a vehicle that fit the description of the one that struck Labroad, a 2016 Ford Escape “with front end image and a smashed windshield” and followed it until losing sight of it “due to its unsafe manner of operation” the docket states. The off-duty officer reported the driver of the vehicle was “traveling at a speed greater than reasonable” and “noted marked lanes violations.”

Matanes and the vehicle were found at the gym a few minutes later, according to the docket. The arresting officer said Matanes smelled of alcohol and had glassy eyes. She refused a breath test and later failed field sobriety tests, police said. Matanes allegedly told police “a person jumped in front of her car and she continued driving because she was unsure what to do,” Officer Tyler Bigda wrote in his report.

Matanes faces seven charges: Operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, second offense; Negligent operation of a motor vehicle; Marked lanes violation; Leaving the scene of an accident resulting in serious injury or death; Motor vehicle homicide; speeding; and inspection sticker violation.

BRIDGE ■ from page 1

through the Mass Develop Site Readiness Grant program. My grant was getting the mill ready for site development, but the bridge itself is essential to the functionality of the entire town, the villages’ access to points north and south. The focus was the mill and how crucial the closure of the bridge was to future development there and how important it is to the economic health of the village.”

The grant pays for the design phase of a modular truss bridge that will function as a temporary Church Street bridge while the permanent one is built. Once that project is completed, the truss will be taken apart, moved to the next bridge to be repaired and serve traffic there during construction and so on.

When not in use by the town the truss can be leased out to other municipalities for their own projects.

“That (the truss) was something that transpired after the grant was approved,” Leduc said.

“It is a perfect match. We can get this bridge open sooner and the state said it will fund a complete bridge replacement. The fact that the Main Street bridge is in itself in rough shape and the more Main Street bridge had to be used contributed to a dire situation there. I think it’s a good investment overall and very useful.”

It’s also a fact that Palmer investing in itself makes it a more attractive candidate for future grants and private investment.

“We’re getting back to the way we were able to travel before,” Leduc said.

“Now we’re getting interest in sites in town for redevelopment and with all the things coming together, we’re better positioned. That the town is invested in itself speaks well of us.”

LOCAL THEATER

Exit 7 Players presents adaptation of ‘A Christmas Carol’

LUDLOW — The Exit 7 Players will present ‘A Christmas Carol: A New Musical’ this holiday season.

Performance dates are 8 p.m. Dec. 10-11 and 2 p.m. matinee Dec. 12.

This adaptation from Charles Dickens’ classic tale of redemption by Jeffrey Flood (book) and Peter Hicks (music and lyrics) will have its newly orchestrated world premiere with this production. The director is Ryan Bird, music director is Ed Dion, and the choreographer is Brian Fournier.

Tickets prices are \$22 (preferred), \$20 (adult) and \$18 (seniors over 62/children 12 and under) and are available through the Exit 7 Players Theater box office at exit7players.org or by calling 413-583-4301. Group tickets are also available by calling the box office.

Exit 7 Theater is at 37 Chestnut Street, Ludlow. For more, go to exit7players.org.

OPEN HOUSE ■ from page 1

was recently placed on the National Register of Historic Properties – a process that took nearly 10 years.

“We have decided, out of an abundance of caution, to cancel our open house event,” Dennis Swierad, president of the historical society, said.

Last week, a new variant of COVID-19, called Omicron, emerged in South Africa and has since been detected in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world. Early studies indicate the new variant may be a more easily transmissible version of the virus, including the Delta variant that emerged last summer, but produce less severe illness.

Public health officials are still evaluating how effective existing vaccines are against Omicron, though early reports were optimistic.

Museum board member Denis Duquette said there was some discussion even before Omicron emerged about whether or not to go ahead with the open house. The new variant was the tipping point, he said.

“We were talking about it last month before Omicron was even in the news,” Duquette said. “We decided (last week) not to take a chance.”

It was a difficult decision, especially considering the pandemic’s impact on the historical society’s plans over the past year.

“We actually had plans last year to do this and all of a sudden had another outbreak at around this time last year and had to cancel it,” Duquette said. “It seems we get a break (in the pandemic), we advertise it, and then something comes up and we have to pull it.”

Duquette said the historical society will likely wait until spring to reschedule an open house. In the meantime, a grant the organization received will be used for some electrical work and to convert a garage into exhibition space.

“It’s quite a sizable grant and we can do some considerable work here,” he said.

Want to know more?

To learn more about the Monson historical society, visit its website at monsonhistoricalsociety.org. There, you can learn about its collection, get information about the town’s past, keep up with planned events, how to become a member, and more. Also, anyone with specific questions about the historical society or who wants assistance doing research about Monson, including past residents, can send an email to monsonhistoricalsocietyinc@gmail.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to mharrison@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

Editor’s note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, events featured in the Journal Register, including those previewed in stories, briefs and on the calendar page, may be canceled with little notice. The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in a Word doc or as email text – no PDFs, please – to mharrison@turley.com.

NOW

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: A Pancake Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary will be held 8 to 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, at the Three Rivers Fire Station, 50 Springfield Street. \$6 for adults, \$4 for children ages 4-12 (under 4 is free).

INDOOR BENEFIT TAG SALE! Teenagers and their sponsors are hosting an indoor tag sale 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, at Faith Community Chapel, 485 East St., Ludlow. Some of the articles for sale: vintage dolls, glassware and china plates! Other items include Christmas wreaths and items, furniture, lamps, blankets, clothing, fashion jewelry, a dog carrier and many excellent books!

GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOP: Gingerbread house season is here! Take home a kit from the Palmer Library and build your own sugary shack! Kits include graham crackers, assorted candy, icing packets, instructions, and a cardboard base. This is for all ages. Kits **MUST** be picked up promptly, as they contain food items. Curbside pickup begins Dec. 13. You will be notified when kits are ready. Register at palmerlibrary.org or call 413-283-3330.

TREE AND WREATH FESTIVAL: Check out dozens of amazing themed trees and wreaths and take a chance to win one or more, including a doll tree, lottery tree, and restaurant gift tree. Many more. At the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center, 2072 Main Street 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 11-12. For more information, go to palmerhcc.org, visit the PHCC on Facebook or call 413-289-9295 or 413-283-3054.

SANTA COMING TO HOLLAND: Santa will be at the Holland Fire Station, 7 Sturbridge Road noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, and again at the Holland Community Center at 40 Brimfield Road at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to the Dec. 14 event for the Stuff

the Cruiser drive. Toys will be donated to the USMC Toys for Tots Foundation.

SOON

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN STORY AND SONG: First Church of Monson at 5 High Street invites everyone to join with them to Celebrate Christmas in story and song. Led by the First Church Music Committee, the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 26, will feature the telling of the stories of several Christmas carols, the reading of poetry, and the singing of seasonal favorites. After the service, light refreshments will be served in fellowship hall.

ONGOING

WING MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY GIFT SHOP: The shop is open and offering special gifts and sale items for all of the family. Remember to purchase a LOTTO CALENDAR ticket which make a great stocking stuffers. A \$5 ticket gives you 33 CHANCES TO WIN and \$10 for three tickets will give you 93 CHANCES TO WIN. Store hours are weekdays from 9:30 to 4:30 with additional weekend hours during the holidays.



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PALMER



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BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Viewpoints

A holy hush amid a frantic holiday rush

One received phone call can change your day. Even during a stressful time, conversations can bring a calming and positive influence to stressful circumstances and bring hope and happiness. One year, only weeks before Christmas, we learned the startling news that my father-in-law was suddenly scheduled for lung cancer surgery. Airline reservations were made immediately.

“Dad, we’ve got the first available flight out,” The Hub said. “We’ll be there in the afternoon.”

Although living in a warmer climate in Tennessee with his youngest son and family wasn’t that far away, it was only a separation in miles. Phones calls were often and filled with love, laughter and the latest sports news.

Within minutes after that early morning phone call, my whirlwind to-do list lengthened and our suitcase packing began. And, then I realized that I needed to find items for an extended stay until Grandad was out of critical care.

Pouring coffee in my to-go mug, I thought, “I can do this. Find travel items. Gifts. Get home. Finish packing...” My inner voice trailed off as I grabbed my list, ran out the door across the lawn and jumped into an ice-cold car.

At that early morning opening, finding a parking space at a nearby city’s mall was easy. However, when gliding through the revolving door, I felt like Rudolph, the Red-nosed Reindeer, with red nose and tear-brimming eyes.

As I pace my mind raced: “Lung cancer. So sad. Find Grandad a cheery gift. After that one more stop. Make late lunch. Finish packing...Drive 45 minutes to the airport...Then we’re on our way. Good flying weather...”

Deciding to take a quick, shortcut through the store’s Christmas décor department – and then breeze out the side door – my frenzied steps stopped. Definitely. Abruptly.

What did I see? What did I hear? The Messenger stood breathtakingly poised dressed warmly in a black and white tweed coat. A soft, snow-white angora hat covered and crowned her head. Auburn waves framed her radiant face. Close by her side, a gloved hand grasped a horizontal, gray-metal bar. While standing, she whispered to her listening and attentive companion.

Then speaking up, she cheerfully asked, “Is there a sales clerk here?”

Instantly, like a Jack-in-a-Box, a cheery figure appeared from behind a festively decorated table.

“Do you have a Christmas manger scene? I need help finding one.”

The sales clerk scurried around and in between figure-laden tables, finding her request while an obedient German Shepherd stayed close by her side.

Instant Message seen. Instant Message received.

BRAKE! STOP!

Moments like that grant us indelible memories that give us times to reflect on who we are, what we have and where we are heading.

Perhaps there are times when we need visual aids to remind us of the sights, the sounds and the scenes that we too often take for granted?

Yes, I needed that holy hush then. I reflect on its meaning. It made me count my blessings. It calmed my anxious concerns. It gave me peace for then and the uncertain days ahead.

Amid the holiday rush, can we find a hush, and holy-day moments and their personal message to us?



GUEST COLUMNIST

JOAN E. B. COOMBS



Floral gift boxes make a great present

Boxed kits of amaryllis or paper-white bulbs make great Christmas gifts for the gardener in your life. Planting the bulbs is fun and enjoying the blossoms at a time of year when there is little outdoor color and fragrance is a great pick-me-up. It’s simple to go about the process of growing these bulbs, but here are a few tips to get you started.

Amaryllis kits usually cost between \$10 and \$20. I have found that the more elaborate the enclosed container is, the more expensive the kit will be. The pot should be durable enough to hold up a top-heavy plant, and big enough to allow one and two inches between it and the bulb, that’s it. It should be a standard size, not tapered in any way, to allow for ample root growth. Watch out for the type that are covered in wax, and advertised to be grown without a container. Sure, you can grow them once, but unless you liberate the bulb from all that wax, they are meant to be thrown away after flowering has finished. Sometimes amaryllis kits can be found on the clearance rack. If it is possible to open the kit and inspect the bulb, do so. A few dried roots are okay, but the bulb should be hard, free of any soft spots and rot.

The soil that comes with your kit will likely work just fine. It should be high in organic matter but still drain well. To plant, fill the container with moistened potting soil about one-half to two-thirds of the way, place the bulb on top and fill in with the remaining soil. It should be buried about half way, with its upper portion and neck sitting above the rim. If the soil was sufficiently moistened you need not water again until sprouting occurs. At this stage it is critical not to over water, as soggy soil will rot the bulb. Temperatures around 60 degrees during this period are ideal. Once growth has started fertilizer can be provided but the bulb should bloom well without it.

Once the buds have emerged it may be necessary to provide the stalk with a stake for some support so that it won’t snap or bend. To keep the flowers looking their best for the longest amount of time, it is recommended to pinch off the anthers inside the flower before they begin losing pollen. Moving the pot to a cool location in the house will also help. There is no need to discard the amaryllis after it has

flowered. With care, it can thrive as a houseplant, delighting us with blooms year after year!

When the flowers have withered cut off the stalk about two inches above the bulb. Growth will be prolific during the next few months. Care should be given to provide the bulb with full sunlight, ample water and fertilizer. Late in the fall, foli-

age will begin to yellow. Allow the soil to dry completely as the bulb enters its dormant period. After a few months of dormancy watering can resume and with good fortune, blooms should reappear in six to eight weeks.

Paperwhite bulbs can be planted in potting soil, but more often are “planted” in vases or other watertight containers filled with stones, marbles or beach glass instead of soil. Add water so that it comes just below the bulb’s base and replenish to this point as needed. Once I used an old star-shaped cake mold filled with white stones- what a fragrant and festive Christmas display it made!

One disadvantage to paperwhites is that they are inclined to grow rather leggy, and both the foliage and flower stalks tend to fall over when at their peak. Prevent this from happening by keeping them cool and bright and by providing support in the way of bamboo stakes and twine. You can also purchase a metal ring especially made for this purpose. When researching this column I came across an interesting piece of information online; perhaps you’ll be adventurous and give it a try. William B. Miller, professor of horticulture and director of the Flowerbulb Research Program at Cornell University discovered that giving paperwhites a bit of alcohol will reduce foliage and stems to one-half to two thirds of their height. This works best when using the “soil-free” planting method. When sprouts reach two inches tall, carefully dump out all of the water that remains and replace it with one part rubbing alcohol to 10 parts water. If using hard liquor such as vodka or whiskey, reduce the water to seven parts. Sounds like an interesting experiment to try!

After your paperwhites are done blooming, they are best sent off to the compost pile. They are too tender to be planted outdoors and can’t be forced a second year. Good thing they are rather inexpensive. In fact, they are cheap enough to order a couple dozen. Plan ahead next year by planting some every couple of weeks beginning in November and you could have bright white blooms from Christmas through February. Encourage Santa Claus to set you up with some flower power this Christmas; it beats socks any day!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid Columnist

Redistricting is a challenge to our democracy

By Lee Hamilton
Guest columnist

It would be fair to say that for a good bit of our history, Americans paid scant attention to redistricting. The redrawing of congressional and legislative lines every ten years, sparked by population shifts captured by the Census, tended to pass unnoticed. Unless, of course, it involved some particularly outrageous instance of gerrymandering.

For line-drawers, especially in the age of the computer, this was just fine. When your basic laptop can so easily create any desired political complexion for a district, the politicians who were usually in charge of the process were quite happy to get the chance to choose their voters without much public notice. This would give the party in power in a state a lock on as many seats as possible—never mind the damage it did to competitive elections and, more generally, our representative democracy.

An interesting thing happened after the last redistricting round, however. As overt and divisive partisanship ratcheted up around the country, so did public concern about partisan line-drawing. In several states, reform advocates were able to create citizen-led redistricting commissions, including in Arizona, California, Colorado, Michigan, New York, Ohio and Virginia. The goal was to remove redistricting from the hands of self-interested politicians and, ideally, make it fairer and more representative of voters’ political desires.

But these are highly partisan times, and in at least three of those states, New York, Ohio and Virginia, the commissions split along partisan lines, with each side putting forth its own preferred maps. Moreover, as bracing as it is to see public support for non-partisan redistricting, the reality is that most states still put state legislators in control; this go-round, like last time, Republicans, who control the legislatures and governorship in most of those states, will have a distinct advantage.

Does this matter? I would argue that it does. To begin with, would you rather vote in a district in which you knew that your preferred candidate could never win, or in a district in which your party had a realistic chance of prevailing every other November? I don’t think it’s a coincidence that as elections have grown less competitive, the interest of ordinary citizens has waned.

But the truly troubling issues arise when it comes to the overall makeup of the U.S. House and of state legislatures. When a district is drawn to make it easy for a particular party to win there, it means that politicians don’t need to appeal to a cross-section of the electorate; instead, they must win over “the base.” Which, not surprisingly, means that they focus on voters who are more extreme than the electorate in general. Our roiling partisanship these days is partly a result of redistricting bipartisanship out of existence. Overcoming it will prove nearly impossible as long as congressional and legislative districts are explicitly designed as vehicles for partisanship.

The problem is, from a politician’s point of view the incentive to keep gerrymandering is quite strong. A 2017 study by the Brennan Center for Justice found that extreme partisan redistricting in a handful of states produced 16 to 17 more Republican seats than the party would have won otherwise, thus bulking up the GOP presence in the House for much of the last decade. The party seems likely to extend its dominance this time around, though in several Democratic-controlled states, legislators are doing their level best to cut into their margins.

This is not healthy. For most of our history, the House was legitimately seen as “the people’s house,” and state legislatures were viewed as equally representative. But if their members actually represent only committed activists, it is hard to see them living up to the founders’ expectations. Elections need to reflect public opinion as it evolves over time, and political competition forces candidates to adjust. They must work to understand the needs and desires of voters, explain their positions, and offer voters a choice in the marketplace of politics. Competitive elections undergird our self-expression as citizens. Don’t let self-interested politicians take that away from you.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year’s election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday’s newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor’s Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to: **The Journal Register Letter to the Editor** 24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069, or by e-mail to: mharrison@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

The Journal Register

The Journal Register (USPS 418-940) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

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History Matters

History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is given to children’s books that emphasize the importance of American history.

December 1 to December 15

By John Grimaldi
and David Bruce Smith
Guest columnists

America’s “second” Revolution, the Industrial of the 19th and 20th centuries, was pioneered by inventors, engineers, scientists and Henry Ford, arguably the most prolific. In 1908, he reset the way in which people traveled with the debut of his Model T, a “simple, sturdy and relatively inexpensive” motor car, according to History.com.

Five years later, on Dec. 1, 1913, Ford transformed his “horseless carriage” into a faster, cheaper machine, and incorporated an assembly line that permitted efficient mass production.

Up until then half a day was required to build each automobile; now, with the modernized manufacturing methods, only an hour and a half was necessary.

Ford was determined to ensure that “everybody will have one.”

“By 1920, there were over eight million registrations. The 1920s saw tremendous growth in automobile ownership, with the number of registered drivers almost tripling to 23 million by the end of the decade,” observed the U.S. History Website.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends “I Invented the Modern Age: The Rise of Henry Ford,” by Richard Snow.

Washington says good-bye

On Dec. 4, 1783, three months after the official end of the American revolution, George Washington threw a party for his officers. It was a bittersweet occasion for the General, who had conducted a six-year battle against the Redcoats to ensure a free American homeland. Now, he was traveling to Annapolis, Mary-

land, to resign his commission.

History.com noted that “Observers of the intimate scene at Fraunces Tavern in New York City, described Washington as ‘suffused in tears,’ embracing his officers one by one after issuing his farewell.”

That night, Washington told them: “With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you. I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy as your former ones have been glorious and honorable. I cannot come to each of you but shall feel obliged if each of you will come and take me by the hand.”

For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends “Washington’s Farewell to His Officers After Victory in the Revolution,” by Stuart Murray.

Buffalo Bill Cody

The rough and tumble Buffalo Bill Cody of the Wild West gave up his life on the American frontier, but he held on to his six-guns for an 1872 trip to Chica-

go. On Dec. 11 of that year, he starred in a stage production of The Scouts of the Prairie. The play was panned by the critics, but audiences thronged to see him at the theatre.

By that time, Buffalo Bill was a national folk hero because a dime novel author, Ned Buntline, had portrayed him as “a mixture of incredible fact and romantic fiction,” according to the World History Project. His books glorified Cody’s life and times, chronicling his role “taming the wild, wild west,” in 1,700 volumes.

Cody liked show business so much, that he performed for another decade; then, in 1883, he created Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show, about his real-life adventures. It toured the country 30 years, and barnstormed Europe eight times.

He died in 1917. The Grateful American Book Prize recommends “Buffalo Bill Cody: The Man Behind the Legend,” by Robert A. Carter.

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BASKETBALL

Panthers welcome Conner to varsity coaching ranks

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—Even though Nate Conner is the first-year head coach of the Palmer boys varsity basketball team, he's already very familiar with the Panthers players.

"I'm really excited about having the opportunity to coach the Palmer boys varsity basketball team," Conner said. "I've coached most the varsity players when they played for the junior varsity team."

Conner, who replaced Ryan Minns as the varsity coach, has been a member of the coaching staff at Palmer High School since the 2016-17 season. He was an assistant varsity coach that season before taking over as the Panthers junior varsity coach the following year.

The 2016-17 season was a very memorable one for the Palmer players, coaches, and their supporters. The Panthers advanced to the Division 3 state finals, which was held at the MassMutal Center in Springfield.

"The year that we went to the state finals was a lot of fun," Conner said. "The players on that team worked extremely hard. I want the players on this year's team to work just as hard as those guys did."

The Panthers captured the 2017 Western Mass. Division 3 title by dispatching Drury High School, 71-59, at the historic Curry Hicks Cage. They then defeated Central Mass. champion Bartlett, 80-65, in the state semifinals before losing to Hanover High School, 58-43, in the state finals.

Two of the Panthers key players on the Panthers championship team were Ryan McCarthy and Matt Niemczura. The duo scored their 1,000th career point during that season.

Minns stepped down as the varsity coach following the 2016-17 season, but returned to coach the

PANTHERS | page 10

AWARD



Susan Avezzie, recipient Jack Letendre, Jacob Mastalerz and Jim Syamand. Jack Letendre was the recipient of this year's Bailey Award.

Photo by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com

Letendre receives Bailey Award at Turkey Day game

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER— Selecting the Leonard J. Bailey Award recipient is one of the hardest decisions made by football coaching staff at Palmer High School every year.

To be considered for the prestigious award, which is named in honor of the Panthers former football coach, a player must possess the qualities of sportsmanship, ability, team spirit, attitude, selflessness, and academic achievement. The award winner is usually a member of the senior class, but any player on the football team is eligible.

"Choosing the Bailey Award winner is a very difficult process for the coaching staff. There are always several outstanding candidates every year," said Palmer head coach Matt Marciniac following his team's 34-0 victory over rival Ludlow on Thanksgiving morning. "We do have a large senior class this year, which made it even more difficult for us

to select only one player for the award."

The recipient of the 53rd annual Leonard J. Bailey Award is senior Jack Letendre, who was one of the Panthers two-way starters this fall.

"Jack is like another coach on the field," Marciniac said. "He knows where the other players are supposed to lineup and what they need to do on the different plays. Without him, a lot of the things that we did this year probably wouldn't have happened. Jack is a very good kid and he's going to be very successful whatever he decides to do in the future."

The Bailey Award announcement was made in a ceremony held before the start of the second half of last Thursday's game against Ludlow at Legion Field. Letendre received the trophy from Jacob Mastalerz, who was the Bailey Award winner during the Fall II season last spring. His name will also be inscribed in the school's trophy case.

"Jack and I were teammates

on the high school football team for a couple of years," said Mastalerz, who's currently a freshman at UMass-Amherst where he's majoring in Mechanical Engineering. "Jack is a great kid and is an outstanding team leader, so I wasn't very surprised that he was selected for the Bailey Award this year. It's a very special honor."

One person who has attended all of the Bailey Award ceremonies is James St. Amand, whose son, Eric, was the 1988 Bailey Award winner. His grandson, Tyler Mastalerz, received the award in 2010.

The members of the Leonard J. Bailey Memorial Committee are David Russo, Ann Duke, Mrs. Rocky Blazewski, Bob Chase, and St. Amand. Susan Avezzie, who is Bailey's daughter, also took part in this year's ceremony.

Letendre, who joined the Panthers football team as an eighth grader, was hoping to be selected for the Bailey Award this year, but he knew that there were a

LETENDRE | page 10

SOCCER

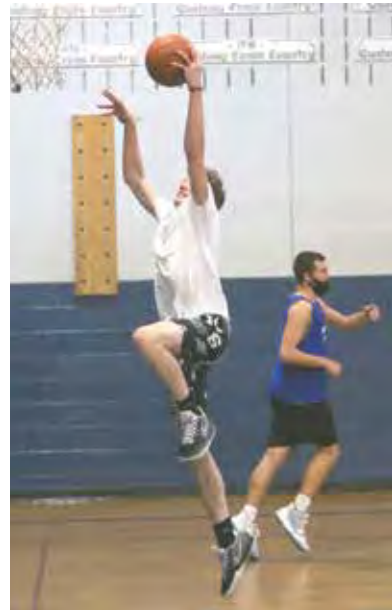
Panthers ready for opener



Palmer boys basketball scrimmage with each other at practice Monday afternoon.

PALMER – Earlier this week, Palmer High School boys basketball continued with preseason practices. The Panthers are preparing for the season opener, scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 9 at home against Frontier Regional. The Panthers will also have a game up at UMass at the Pioneer Valley Tip-Off event. The Panthers will face Drury from the Berkshires at 12:30 p.m.

Photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com



Marcus Trzcinski reaches out far for a tip-in.



Andrew Menard practices a layup.



Shawn Troche does layup drills.

Runners look for heat in Hot Chocolate run

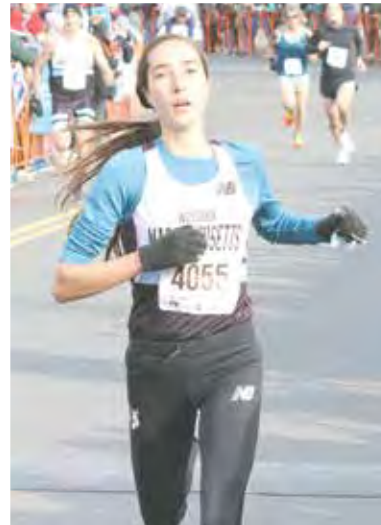


Racers are off in the Hot Chocolate 5K Run.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Tim Ritchie comes in first place in the men's division.



Jenna Gigliotti, of Amherst, was the overall female winner.

NORTHAMPTON – Last Sunday morning, the Hot Chocolate 5K Run took place in downtown Northampton, featuring harriers from all over Western Massachusetts. The race also benefited Safe

Passage, a domestic violence charity in the region. The race was won by Tim Ritchie in the male category at 15:28. The female winner was Jenna Gigliotti, of Amherst, in 17:06.



Pathfinder girls basketball prepares for their upcoming season opener.

Pioneers preseason

PALMER – Pathfinder Regional girls basketball practiced on Monday afternoon as the Pioneers prepare to open up the regular season against Pioneer Valley Christian School. The Pioneers had their season opener pushed back more than other winter teams last year due to COVID concerns. The girls did play an abbreviated season last year. Pathfinder opens against PVCS at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 9. Their home opener is against Smith Vocational on Monday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m.

Photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com
Allyson Dube practices her jump shot.



Andrea Brewer does layup drills.



Natalie St. Marie reaches out to makes a shot during practice.

2021-2022 winter varsity schedule

PALMER

Thursday, Dec. 9	Home	Boys Basketball	Frontier	7 p.m.	Thursday, Feb. 3	Away	Frontier	7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 11	Home	Drury (at UMass)	12:30 p.m.	Monday, Feb. 7	Home	Lenox	7 p.m.	
Monday, Dec. 13	Home	Hoosac	7 p.m.	Ice Hockey (co-op with Amherst Regional)				
Thursday, Dec. 16	Away	South Hadley	7 p.m.	Friday, Dec. 10	Home	South Hadley	6 p.m.	
Monday, Dec. 20	Home	Easthampton	7 p.m.	Thursday, Dec. 16	Away	Longmeadow	6:30 p.m.	
Monday, Jan. 3	Home	Wahconah	7 p.m.	Saturday, Dec. 18	Home	Ludlow	3:30 p.m.	
Thursday, Jan. 6	Away	Hoosac	7 p.m.	Wed., Dec. 22	Away	Wahconah	4 p.m.	
Friday, Jan. 7	Away	Southwick	7 p.m.	Thursday, Dec. 23	Away	Agawam	6:30 p.m.	
Monday, Jan. 10	Home	Monument Mtn	7 p.m.	Thursday, Dec. 30	Away	Chicopee	2:30 p.m.	
Friday, Jan. 14	Away	Belchertown	7 p.m.	Thursday, Jan. 6	Away	Ludlow	8:30 p.m.	
Friday, Jan. 21	Away	Easthampton	7 p.m.	Wed., Jan. 12	Away	Easthampton	7 p.m.	
Monday, Jan. 24	Home	South Hadley	7 p.m.	Thursday, Jan. 13	Away	West Springfield	6:30 p.m.	
Monday, Jan. 31	Home	Bay State Academy	7 p.m.	Saturday, Jan. 15	Home	Westfield	3:30 p.m.	
Wednesday, Feb. 2	Home	Ware	7 p.m.	Monday, Jan. 17	Away	Chicopee Comp.	3 p.m.	
Friday, Feb. 4	Home	Granby	7 p.m.	Thursday, Jan. 20	Away	Minnechaug	6:30 p.m.	
Monday, Feb. 7	Away	Monument Mtn	7 p.m.	Friday, Jan. 21	Home	Chicopee	8:30 p.m.	
Wednesday, Feb. 9	Home	Monson	7 p.m.	Wed., Jan. 26	Away	South Hadley	8 p.m.	
Monday, Feb. 14	Away	Wahconah	7 p.m.	Friday, Jan. 28	Home	Greenfield	8:30 p.m.	
				Saturday, Jan. 29	Home	East Longmeadow	8 p.m.	
				Saturday, Feb. 5	Home	Wahconah	3:30 p.m.	
				Saturday, Feb. 12	Home	Agawam	3:30 p.m.	
				Saturday, Feb. 19	Home	Chicopee Comp	6 p.m.	

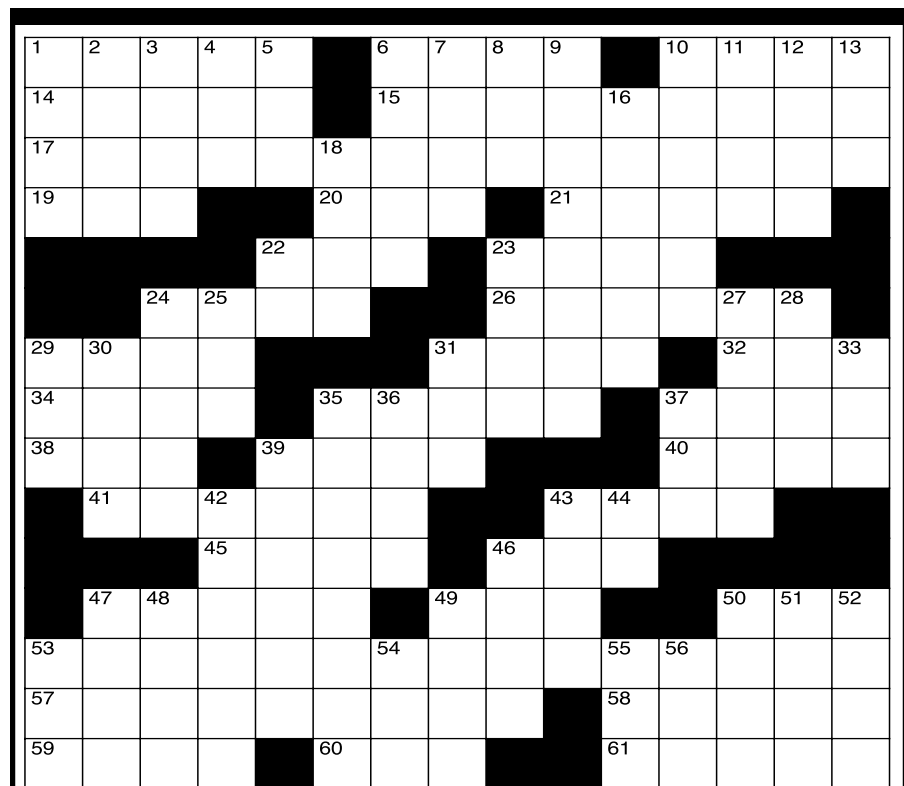
Girls Basketball				Saturday, Feb. 5	Home	Wahconah	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 14	Away	McCann Tech	7 p.m.	Saturday, Feb. 12	Home	Agawam	3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 16	Away	Athol	7 p.m.	Saturday, Feb. 19	Home	Chicopee Comp	6 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 20	Home	Hampshire	7 p.m.	Boys and Girls Swimming			
Wed., Dec. 22	Away	Mahar	7 p.m.	Monday, Dec. 13	Away	Chicopee Comp.	4 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 27	Home	Greenfield	7 p.m.	Friday, Dec. 17	Home	South Hadley	4 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 29	Away	Holyoke	7 p.m.	Monday, Dec. 20	Away	East Longmeadow	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 4	Away	Frontier	7:30 p.m.	Thursday, Dec. 23	Away	Agawam	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 7	Home	Lenox	7 p.m.	Monday, Dec. 27	Home	Belchertown	4 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 12	Home	Ware	7 p.m.	Monday, Jan. 3	Home	Renaissance	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 14	Away	Belchertown	5:30 p.m.	Thursday, Jan. 6	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 20	Away	Monson	7 p.m.	Tuesday, Jan. 11	Away	Northampton	5:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 21	Home	Greenfield	7 p.m.	Friday, Jan. 21	Away	Amherst	4:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 24	Away	Mahar	7 p.m.	Monday, Jan. 24	Home	Ludlow	4 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 26	Home	Southwick	7 p.m.	Friday, Jan. 28	Home	Easthampton	4 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 27	Home	Hopkins	7:30 p.m.	Thursday, Feb. 3	Home	Central	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 1	Home	Ware	7 p.m.				

MONSON

Monday, Dec. 13	Home	Boys Basketball	Belchertown	7 p.m.	Tuesday, Jan. 4	Home	Hampshire	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 16	Away	Hampshire	7 p.m.	Friday, Jan. 7	Home	Hoosac	7 p.m.	
Monday, Dec. 20	Home	Hampshire	7 p.m.	Thursday, Jan. 13	Away	Hoosac	7 p.m.	
Wednesday, Dec. 29	Home	North Brookfield	7 p.m.	Friday, Jan. 14	Home	Amherst	7 p.m.	
Monday, Jan. 3	Away	Renaissance	7 p.m.	Tuesday, Jan. 18	Away	South Hadley	7 p.m.	
Thursday, Jan. 6	Home	Southwick	7 p.m.	Thursday, Jan. 20	Away	Palmer	7 p.m.	
Monday, Jan. 10	Home	Granby	7 p.m.	Tuesday, Jan. 25	Away	Granby	7 p.m.	
Monday, Jan. 13	Away	Southwick	7 p.m.	Tuesday, Feb. 1	Home	Mt. Greylock	6:30 p.m.	
Friday, Jan. 14	Away	Northampton	7:30 p.m.	Tuesday, Feb. 8	Away	Hampshire	7 p.m.	
Wed., Jan. 19	Away	St. Mary's	6:30 p.m.	Thursday, Feb. 10	Home	Wahconah	7 p.m.	
Friday, Jan. 21	Home	Belchertown	7 p.m.	Wed., Feb. 16	Away	Chicopee Comp.	7 p.m.	
Monday, Jan. 24	Home	Ware	7 p.m.	Boys and Girls Swimming				
Friday, Jan. 28	Home	Renaissance	7 p.m.	Thursday, Dec. 9	Home	Turners Falls	4 p.m.	
Friday, Feb. 4	Home	Monument Mountain	7 p.m.	Wed., Dec. 15	Away	Chicopee	4 p.m.	
Monday, Feb. 7	Home	Quabog	7 p.m.	Monday, Dec. 20	Home	Amherst	4:30 p.m.	
Wednesday, Feb. 9	Away	Palmer	7 p.m.	Wed. Dec. 29	Home	Tantasqua	10 a.m.	
Monday, Feb. 11	Away	Ware	7 p.m.	Monday, Jan. 3	Home	West Springfield	4 p.m.	
Monday, Feb. 14	Away	Granby	7 p.m.	Friday, Jan. 7	Away	Holyoke	4:30 p.m.	
				Monday, Jan. 10	Away	Sci-Tech	4 p.m.	
				Thursday, Jan. 13	Home	Renaissance	4 p.m.	
				Thursday, Jan. 20	Away	Turners Falls	4 p.m.	
				Friday, Jan. 28	Home	Sci-Tech	4 p.m.	
				Monday, Jan. 31	Home	Chicopee	4 p.m.	
Tuesday, Dec. 14	Away	Girls Basketball	Wahconah	7 p.m.				
Friday, Dec. 17	Away	Amherst	7 p.m.					
Tuesday, Dec. 21	Home	South Hadley	7 p.m.					
Tuesday, Dec. 28	Home	Granby	7 p.m.					
Wed., Dec. 29	Home	North Brookfield	7 p.m.					

PATHFINDER

Friday, Dec. 10	Home	Boys Basketball	Hampden Charter	7 p.m.	Tuesday, Jan. 4	Away	Ludlow	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 14	Away	McCann Tech	7 p.m.	Friday, Jan. 7	Home	Smith Voke	7 p.m.	
Friday, Dec. 17	Home	Pioneer Valley Christian	5:30 p.m.	Tuesday, Jan. 11	Away	St. Mary's	6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, Dec. 21	Away	Gateway	6:30 p.m.	Thursday, Jan. 13	Away	Athol	7 p.m.	
Thursday, Dec. 23	Home	David Prouty	7 p.m.	Friday, Jan. 14	Away	Hampden Charter	7 p.m.	
				Tuesday, Jan. 18	Away	Westfield Tech	7 p.m.	
				Thurs., Jan. 20	Home	PV Charter	5:30 p.m.	
				Monday, Jan. 24	Home	Duggan	7 p.m.	
				Monday, Jan. 31	Home	Gateway	7 p.m.	
				Thursday, Feb. 3	Away	Smith Voke	6:30 p.m.	
				Monday, Feb. 7	Home	St. Mary's	6:30 p.m.	
				Thursday, Feb. 10	Away	PV Charter	4 p.m.	



CLUES ACROSS

- Polish city
- Very eager
- Identifies a specific person or thing
- Tennis great Naomi
- One concerned by professional advancement
- PGA Championship reward
- A fashionable hotel
- Norse mythology afterlife location
- Stood up
- Car mechanics group
- Weather forecasters use it (abbr.)
- Broken branch
- Astronomy unit
- East Asian nursemaid
- "Airplane!" actor
- Exclamation that denotes disgust
- "Batman" villain
- Downfalls
- Philippine province
- Once-vital TV part
- Valley
- Taxi
- Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- Swiss river
- Founder of Babism
- Withdrew from a larger entity
- Lot's father
- Greek war god
- 2,000 lbs.
- Lemur
- Quarrels
- Right away
- Comedian Carvey
- Egyptian unit of weight
- A Brit's mother
- Tropical tree
- One who speaks Gaelic
- NHL legend Bobby
- Vacation spots
- Military personnel
- Shakira's don't lie
- Wimbledon champ
- Teletypewriter
- Mistakes
- Whale ship captain
- Thus
- From end to end
- Kids love him
- One and only
- Fencing swords
- Taxis
- Basics
- Refuse of grapes
- Go quickly
- French ballet dynasty
- Most open
- Popular soap ingredient
- US time zone (abbr.)
- Items of food
- Backbones
- Infrequent
- Blood type
- "Let It Snow!" songwriter
- Dutch colonist
- Pike
- Egyptian sun god
- A cardinal is one
- From a distance
- Bolivian river
- N. American student organization (abbr.)
- River (Spanish)
- Chinese life force
- Chinese surname

CLUES DOWN

- Quarrels

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Athlete of the Week



Jack Letendre

Palmer High School

The Palmer quarterback received the Bailey Award this year. It was presented to him on Thanksgiving morning during Palmer's win over Ludlow. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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ARBELLA
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TANTASQUA

Friday, Dec. 10	Away	Boys Basketball	North	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 14	Home	Northbridge	6:30 p.m.	
Friday, Dec. 17	Away	Uxbridge	6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, Dec. 21	Home	Oxford	6:30 p.m.	
Wednesday, Dec. 29	Away	Nashoba	5:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, Jan. 4	Away	Auburn	6:30 p.m.	
Friday, Jan. 7	Away	Southbridge	6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, Jan. 11	Home	Leicester	6:30 p.m.	
Thursday, Jan. 13	Home	Holyoke	5:30 p.m.	
Friday, Jan. 14	Away	David Prouty	6:30 p.m.	
Monday, Jan. 17	Away	Sutton	6:30 p.m.	
Thursday, Jan. 20	Home	Millbury	6:30 p.m.	
Monday, Jan. 24	Away	Grafton	6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, Jan. 25	Home	Doherty	7 p.m.	
Thursday, Jan. 27	Home	South	6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, Feb. 1	Home	Minnechaug	6:30 p.m.	
Thursday, Feb. 3	Away	Bartlett	6:30 p.m.	
Thursday, Feb. 10	Home	Quabog	6:30 p.m.	

Monday, Dec. 13	Away	Girls Basketball	Northbridge	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 16	Home	Uxbridge	6:30 p.m.	
Monday, Dec. 20	Away	Oxford	6:30 p.m.	
Thursday, Dec. 23	Away	Notre Dame Academy	6:30 p.m.	
Wednesday, Dec. 29	Home	Leominster	4 p.m.	
Monday, Jan. 3	Home	Auburn	6:30 p.m.	
Thursday, Jan. 6	Home	Southbridge	6:30 p.m.	
Monday, Jan. 10	Away	Leicester	6:30 p.m.	
Thursday, Jan. 13	Home	David Prouty	6:30 p.m.	
Friday, Jan. 21	Away	Millbury	6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, Jan. 25	Home	Grafton	6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, Feb. 1	Away	Minnechaug	7 p.m.	
Thursday, Feb. 3	Home	Shepherd Hill	6:30 p.m.	
Friday, Feb. 4	Home	Bartlett	6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, Feb. 8	Away	South	6:30 p.m.	
Thursday, Feb. 10	Home	Quabog	5 p.m.	

Indoor Track (all meets at Tantasqua)

Wednesday, Dec. 15	Home	Meet 1	5 p.m.	
Wednesday, Dec. 22	Home	Meet 2		5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 5	Home	Meet 3		5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 12	Home	Meet 4		5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 19	Home	Meet 5		5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 26	Home	League Championship		5 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 11	Away	Swimming	Nashoba	2 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 15	Home	Bromfield	4 p.m.	
Wednesday, Dec. 22	Home	Advanced Math & Science	4 p.m.	
Wednesday, Dec. 29	Away	Monson	10 a.m.	
Wednesday, Jan. 5	Home	Westborough	5:30 p.m.	
Friday, Jan. 7	Away	Doherty	3:30 p.m.	
Wednesday, Jan. 12	Home	Shrewsbury	4 p.m.	
Friday, Jan. 14	Away	Gardner	7:30 p.m.	
Wednesday, Jan. 19	Home	Algonquin	4 p.m.	
Friday, Jan. 21	Away	Tyngsborough	6 p.m.	
Wednesday, Jan. 26	Home	Grafton	4 p.m.	

MIAA releases update on winter sports

FRANKLIN – The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association released a statement last week regarding the start of winter sports in local high schools. The statement reads:

"We are providing direction regarding masking guidelines for the winter season. This information is consistent with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and set forth by the Commissioner of Education. In order to maximize full participation of winter sports we will begin the winter season with the same guidelines that we utilized this fall:

Student-athletes, coaches, and officials that are indoors shall be masked.

These are minimum required State safety standards that remain consistent with the practices that take place during the school day.

While masking guidelines may vary at off campus facilities and venues please treat practices and competitions as school events and adhere to the above guideline. Further, be respectful to the policies and expectations set forth in school districts and local communities and continue the practice of communicating with member schools that may or may not

have reached the 80% vaccination threshold.

DESE has set a January 15, 2022 date to assess masking guidelines. Through our work with State officials, and monitoring vaccination rates and COVID rates, we will take into consideration MIAA committee votes and push for a transition to un-masking during athletic completion within the winter season.

To reiterate, the winter season began on Monday, Nov. 30 with the same masking guidelines that we followed this fall.

Thank you for making this fall athletic season a true success."

DEATH NOTICES

John H. Dunn, 79

Died: Dec. 4, 2021
Funeral service: Liturgy of
Christian Burial 10 a.m.
Dec. 10
at Sacred Heart Church

Kurt J. Kaiser, 77

Died: Dec. 5, 2021
Visiting hours: 5-8 p.m.
Dec. 10
at Lombard Funeral Home

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.
One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased,
date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows
families to publish extended death notice information of their
own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices &
Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to:
obits@turley.com.

*Exceptions will be made only when the family
provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

O B I T U A R I E S

John H. Dunn, 79

AGAWAM – John H. Dunn, 79, of Agawam, and formerly Monson, passed away peacefully at Baystate Medical Center on Dec. 4, 2021, after several years of medical struggles.

Born in Holyoke, the son of Eva (Berneche) and Martin Dunn, he spent the early years of his life in Springfield, graduating from Classical High School. He held a B.A. from American International College and a M.A. from UMASS, Amherst, both degrees in political science and did extensive work toward his EdD at UMASS.

John began his 30-year career at Springfield Technical Community College in 1970 as a faculty member in the Political Science Dept. and soon became the Dean of Faculty in 1972, followed by being named Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs. During his tenure, he was responsible for developing and implementing 29 new degree and certificate programs, the college's Honors Program and the Bilingual Program just to name a few.

In addition to his academic responsibilities, John served as chair of the National Center for Telecommunications Technologies, established at STCC in 1997 through a \$5 million National Science Foundation Grant. A talented, well respected administrator, he served on and chaired numerous task forces and committees of the Board of Regents and High Education. He was named a commissioner of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges' Commission of Higher Education. John was the only community college representative serving on this prestigious board which

evaluates and accredits colleges and universities throughout the Northeastern States. He was a member of, or chaired, three evaluation teams, including two in Athens, Greece.

Apart from his professional life, John (AKA "Uncle." "Uncle John" or "the Dean") was an artist in every sense of the word. As a high school student, he applied to Rhode Island School of Design and was accepted to study art and architecture. Financially impossible at the time, his dream had to be deferred, but never extinguished. His artistic flair was evident in so many aspects of his life, from the landscaping and perennial gardens at his beloved home at Lake Paradise in Monson, to the elaborate gourmet meals he loved serving to family and friends. John often served as the proverbial Christmas elf decorating his home and grounds to the nines or assisting his good friend, Dennis Croteau, with design work at McClelland's florist or at Baystate Medical Center.

John's favorite hobby was woodworking with which he built pieces of furniture for his home or created elegant birdhouses for our feathered friends under the name Jonathan Duncan Designs.

No project that would create beauty was too challenging for him. Gifted with a lovely singing voice, John often wrote whimsical tunes to celebrate retirement or special events for friends and colleagues. A true feisty Irishman, John lived his entire life HIS way with no regrets.

John was predeceased by



his parents, his sisters Shirley Cormier and Carol Christie, and his niece Cindy LaRiviere. Left to cherish his memory is his wife/best friend of 39 years, Gail (Pederzoli) Dunn, and his sister, Marlene LaRiviere. He also leaves behind his much loved nieces and nephews. His niece Cheryl Kossick and her children Zachary and Kalli were like his daughter and grandchildren. He also leaves his dear nieces Carol Ciciarelli and Caryn LaRiviere and nephews Tom and Jason LaRiviere.

The family thanks all of the staff at Baystate Medical Center for their attentive care, sympathy and empathy. Special appreciation to Dr. Blackwood, Dr. "S", Dr. "Z", Rabbi Ken and nurses Madison, Hannah, Sarina and Peg.

Family and friends are invited to gather from 8 to 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 10, at Colonial Forastiere Funeral & Cremation, 985 Main Street, Agawam. A Liturgy of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, Chestnut Street, Springfield. Burial will follow in St. Michael's Cemetery, State Street, Springfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the AIC Scholarship Fund, Office of Institutional Advancement, 1000 State Street, Springfield, MA 01109 or to the D'Amour Cancer Center 3350 Main St, Springfield, MA 01107 or to a charity of one's choice. For more information or to leave an online condolence, visit forastiere.com.

Kurt Kaiser, 1943-2021

MONSON — J Kurt Kaiser, 77, passed away Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021. Kurt was born in New Rochelle, N.Y., on Jan. 14, 1943, to the late Herbert J. and Jean F. (Dover) Kaiser. He was a high school graduate and attended Syracuse University and Boston University. For many years he was a toll collector for the Massachusetts Turnpike retiring after 25 years. Kurt often said, "Moving to Monson was the best thing I ever did."

Along with his wife Angela they raised four children and Kurt became active with Monson town government. He served as selectman for at least two terms, was a member of the Finance Committee for many years and served as Chairman several times; he served on the School Building Committee for the new high school and renovations to Granite Valley Middle School; he served on the Zoning Board of Appeals, working hard to maintain the quality of

life for Monson residents; he served on the Town Office Building Committee following the tornado. Kurt was community committed and was very proud to conclude both building projects under budget. He provided consistency in managing the town's finances – especially when they were lean.

Kurt was a Bruins fan. He enjoyed saltwater fishing, going to the beach, tinkering with old cars, NHRA drag racing and watching his kids play sports, especially hockey and soccer.

Kurt leaves his wife of 56 years, Angela (Raffaele) Kaiser and their children: Erik Kaiser and his wife April of Palmer, Jason Kaiser and his wife Danielle of Turners Falls, J. Gabriel and his wife Kristin of Davidson, N.C., and Beth Nissenbaum and her husband Truth of Monson; a brother, Hebert Kaiser and his



wife Bette of North Kingston, R.I.; a sister, Gretel Marazzi and her husband William of West Haven, Conn.; 12 grandchildren: Alec, Grace, Charlotte, Shane, Marley, Theresa, Avere, Sage, Audrey, Julian, Meredith and Benjamin, along with many extended family members and friends.

Visiting hours will be held 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10, in Lombard Funeral Home, 3 Bridge St. Monson. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation in Kurt's name to the Monson Fire Department Ambulance Fund PO Box 335, Monson, MA 01057. For online condolences/directions visit lombardfuneral-home.com.

Police/Fire

Police Logs

**PALMER
POLICE DEPT.**

The Palmer Police Department responded to a total of 475 calls and made 10 arrests or summons for arrests Nov. 30 – Dec. 7. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty:

Tuesday, Nov. 30

Nicole J. Matanes, 33, of 1 Meadowlane St., Three Rivers, was arrested at 12:54 p.m., in the area of North Main Street and Wright Street in Palmer, for operating a

motor vehicle under the influence of liquor; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; a marked lanes violation; leaving scene of personal injury and death; motor vehicle homicide under the influence of alcohol and negligence; speeding rate of speed greater than what was reasonable and proper and having no inspection sticker.

Thursday, Dec. 2

Jodi Ranea Kopecky, 49, of 35 Beaufort Cir., Springfield, was arrested at 9:19 p.m., on Ware Street in Thorndike, for a marked lanes violation and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Sunday, Dec. 5

Linda Marie Mowduk, 65, of 3010 Main St., Bondsville, was arrested at 9:40 a.m., on South Main Street in Bondsville, for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.

Monday, Dec. 6

Juan R. Quinones, 37, no address, was arrested at 4:55 p.m., on Park Street in Palmer, for an arrest warrant.

Haley McKee, 22, no address, was arrested at 4:55 p.m., on Park Street in Palmer, for two arrest warrants.

Fire Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to nine calls Nov. 30 – Dec. 6:

On Tuesday, Nov. 30, at 4:20 p.m., the department responded to an unauthorized burning call on Breckenridge Street. The department returned to service at 4:32 p.m.

On Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 9:10 a.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on Thorndike Street. The department returned to service at 7:48 p.m.

On Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 1:45 p.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Bennett Street. The department returned to service at 2:18 p.m.

On Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 2:43 p.m., the department responded to a lockout on River Street. The department returned to service at 3:31 p.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 2, at 10:48 p.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on Homestead Street. The department returned to service at 11:32 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 4, at 7:07 p.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide activation on De-

pot Street. The department returned to service at 7:25 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 4, at 7:32 p.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on Countryside Drive. The department returned to service at 7:58 p.m.

On Monday, Dec. 6, at 9:13 a.m., the department responded to an animal rescue call on Breckenridge Street. The department returned to service at 10:03 a.m.

On Monday, Dec. 6, at 6:59 p.m., the department responded to a medical assistance call on Depot Street. The department returned to service at 7:28 p.m.

BONDSDVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to no calls Nov. 30 – Dec. 6:

THREE RIVERS

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to two calls Dec. 4 – 6:

On Saturday, Dec. 4, at 7:01 p.m., the department responded to an unauthorized burning call on Springfield Street. The department

returned to service at 8:36 p.m.

On Monday, Dec. 6, at 2:46 p.m., the department responded to a kitchen fire call on Palmer Street. The department returned to service at 3:26 p.m.

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to four fire calls and 27 EMS calls Nov. 29 – Dec. 5:

On Monday, Nov. 29, at 4:51 p.m. the department responded to a lost hiker. The department returned to service at 5:29 p.m.

On Tuesday, Nov. 30, at 8:14 p.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide alarm activation. The department returned to service at 8:31 p.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 2, at 3:48 p.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation. The department returned to service at 4:26 p.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 2, at 3:42 a.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation. The department returned to service at 4:07 a.m.

Finance Board members needed

Do you possess financial expertise? If so, the town of Holland Finance Board invites you to join the team.

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associate member.

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**Springfield Garden Club
presents holiday floral designs
and boutique**

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Garden Club will host "Holiday Floral Designs and Boutique" on Friday, Dec. 17 at 11:30 a.m. The event will be in person at the Barney Carriage House at Forest Park as well as virtually via Zoom.

Our talented members will create and demonstrate floral designs for the holiday season which will be auctioned afterwards. We will also be offering a Holiday Boutique that will be online as well as in person. Be prepared to do your holiday shopping and tell your friends.

Guest fee is \$5 and tickets are available on Eventbrite. The presentation is open to the public as well as club members via Zoom. Social hour begins at 11:30, the club business meeting is at noon and the presentation will begin at 12:30. Tickets for guests are \$5 and are available at EventBrite.com.

For more information on this and other Springfield Garden Club events go to www.gcfm.org/springfieldgardenclub or visit them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldMAGardenClub/>.

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Please, no magazines or Reader's Digest Condensed Books.
We accept books only in good, clean condition.

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100

Proceeds To Benefit the Palmer Public Library

Baystate Health announces changes in visitor policy

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Health is announcing some significant changes to its hospital visitor (also referred to now as care partner) policy guidelines as the number of cases of COVID-19 continue to decrease at its hospitals and in the community. Changes were effective since Nov. 9.

The health and safety of patients, families and staff members is our top priority. Care partner visitation guidelines balance preventing the spread of COVID-19 with the needs of patients and their loved ones. A care partner may be a relative, partner, friend or anyone the patient chooses to have at their side during care. The number of care partners welcomed will depend on the area of the hospital and patient circumstances.

Red, yellow, green and gray tiers, also called zones, still remain in effect for visitation based on the CDC, DPH and state guidelines, but the policy details within the tiers change over time. Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Baystate Noble Hospital in Westfield, Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer and Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield are now in the yellow tier, requiring changes to its guidelines.

Major yellow tier changes include: one visitor at a time (previously only one visitor per day) for patients who are not in the ICU.

two parents or guardians at a time for pediatric patients (previously one parent or guardian at a time) in the Emergency Department, surgery/procedures and inpatient.

For OB patients, two designated care

partners (previously only 1) allowed in the room during delivery. For postpartum - both the designated one care partner and an additional care partner may now visit together at the bedside at any given time during visitation hours.

Children 5-18 years of age can visit, but must be accompanied by an adult. Children under age 5 can visit for designated exceptions only. However, no children under age 18 can visit patients in the Emergency Department.

Flower deliveries to patients are once again being accepted with the exception of neutropenic or critical care patients.

Visiting hours remain from noon-8 p.m.

All visitors must adhere to Baystate Health infection control practices that are in effect throughout the health system: wearing facemasks at all times whether in the patient's room or other areas of the hospital, and frequent handwashing. Visitors with a fever, cough or other COVID-19 symptoms, will not be able to visit.

Baystate Health regularly evaluates its visitation policy in accordance with the Governor, CDC, and DPH who are monitoring the constant evolution in our region which guides our updates. Visitation is at the discretion of Baystate Health. Baystate Health will continue to review the county data and CDC/DPH/State guidelines weekly to determine which tier each county will be in. To stay up to date and see exceptions for each tier, including obstetrics, people may go to baystatehealth.org/patients/visiting.

PANTHERS ■ from page 7

varsity team last season.

“Ryan Minns is one of the best high school basketball coaches that I’ve been around,” Conner said. “He always had the basketball team prepared very well.”

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Panthers played all of their games last season during a two-week span in February.

The Panthers are scheduled to host Frontier Regional in the 2021-22 season opener on Thursday night. They’ll then be facing Drury in the Pioneer Valley Tip Off at the UMass Mullins Center on Saturday afternoon.

“Playing a game at the Mullins Center is going to be a huge deal for my players,” Conner said. “I’m just focused on our first game of the regular season right now. We

do have a very difficult schedule this year, which should help us in the new power rankings.”

The Panthers will be trying to qualify for the new Division 5 state tournament. The top 32 teams in the Division 5 power rankings will automatically qualify for the postseason tournament. The other Division 5 teams who finish the regular season with a .500 or better record will also qualify for the tournament.

Conner began his high school basketball career at Quaboag Regional before transferring to Belchertown High School.

“I had a lot of fun playing high school basketball at both Quaboag and Belchertown,” he said. “When I was a senior at Belchertown, we were 20-1 before losing to Taconic in overtime in the Western Mass. Division 2 semifinals. We had a lot

of seniors on that team just like we do this year.”

A couple of years after graduating from Belchertown, Conner became an assistant basketball coach at his alma mater under head coach Bill Beauregard, who’s currently coaching the Quaboag girls’ varsity basketball team.

“I reached out to coach Beauregard, who was the boys JV coach when I was at Belchertown,” Conner said. “I really enjoyed working with those players. Then I became an assistant basketball coach here at Palmer High School.”

The Panthers are scheduled to play at Belchertown on Jan. 14.

When he was the Panthers JV coach, Conner had the chance to coach the varsity squad for one game against Ludlow, which was a victory.

“We did have a couple of

practices before playing Ludlow,” Conner said. “It was a very good experience for me. I tried my best and the kids played very hard for me in that game. I’m 1-0 as a varsity coach.”

Conner was informed by Palmer High School Principal Susan North that he had been hired as the new Palmer boys’ varsity basketball coach.

“I was very excited when Mrs. North told me that I was going to be the varsity basketball coach,” Conner said. “I then started to prepare for the upcoming season. It’s nice already knowing the players on the team. I hope it’s a fun season for them and we’re going to surprise a lot of people this year.”

Conner and his players are looking forward to having a successful basketball season this winter.

LETENDRE ■ from page 7

lot of other outstanding candidates on his team.

“All of the players in my class are great leaders, great students and are great role models on the field,” said Letendre, who’s a three-year starting quarterback and was also a starting defensive back. “I was really hoping that they would call my name during the halftime ceremony, but I would’ve been just as happy if one of my teammates had been selected for the award. I did get goose bumps when my name was announced and it’s a great honor.”

The other seniors listed on the Palmer football roster are Anthony

Ukrainets, Brady Goguen, Trey Yesu, Brady Stahelski, Michael Ziemba II, Chance Lee, Ethan Tremblay, Xavier Nava, Trinal Cooper, Robert Burke, Richard Ingrassia, Roman Cardenas, Logan Fontaine, and Jaden Nava.

Letendre is the 21st Bailey Award winner to celebrate a victory against rival Ludlow on Thanksgiving morning. He’s also one of only four Bailey Award winners who have defeated the Lions at Legion Field during the past 15 years. The other three former Palmer football players who accomplished that feat are Matt Gromosky (2008), Tyler Mastalerz (2010), and Michael Blazejewski (2016).

Palmer, who qualified for the

new Division 8 state tournament, finished the 2021 season with a 9-2 overall record. The Panthers outscored their first three opponents of the regular season, 90-6, before suffering a 42-21 road loss to archrival Ware in week four.

“Ware has always been our biggest rivals and it’s always the biggest game of the regular season for us,” Letendre said. “We never defeated them during my high school football career.”

Palmer did win their final four regular season games by 30 or more points.

After defeating Brighton High School, 45-18, at home in their first state playoff game, the Panthers dreams of winning the Division 8

Super Bowl title came to an end following a 16-13 semifinal loss to the Oxford Pirates at Legion Field on November 12.

“The playoff victory against Brighton was probably one of the biggest victories of my entire high school football career,” Letendre said. “It was such a special feeling, especially doing it with the majority of the guys that I’ve been playing football with since the third grade with the Palmer Cowboys.”

Letendre, who hasn’t made his college decision yet, will be a member of the Panthers boys’ varsity basketball team this winter. He’s also planning to join the outdoor track & field team for the first-time next spring.

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

VACANCY Human Resource Director

The Town of Ware seeks applicants for the HR Director position. The Director will be friendly and knowledgeable, providing a supportive and welcoming environment for Department heads and staff. Shall have a commitment to professional development and policies that promote and support a healthy work/life balance.

A successful candidate will have experience with state & federal law, personnel policies and regulations, recruitment, employee relations, policy development, labor relations and other common HR responsibilities. This position requires a high level of professionalism, confidentiality, and superior customer service skills.

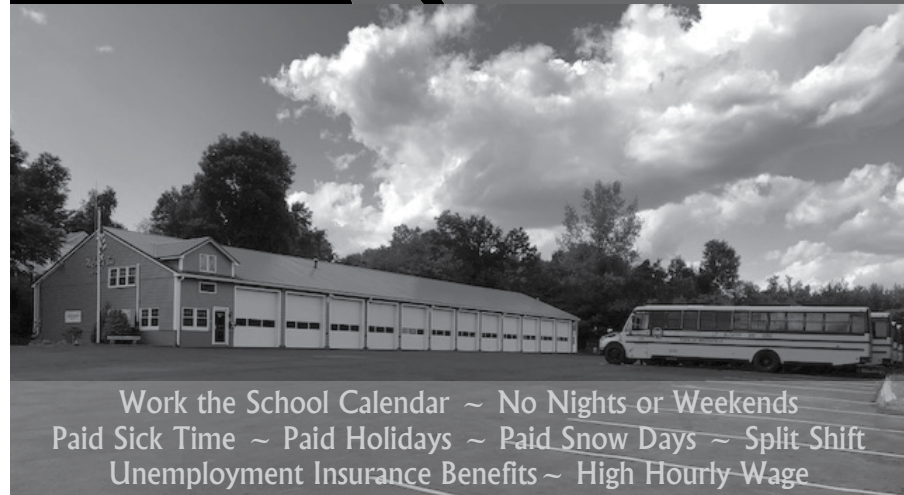
The town will consider any combination of relevant work experience, volunteerism, education, and transferable skills as qualifying unless an item in the qualification section of the job description is labeled required. For a complete job description, please visit the town website, www.townofware.com

This position works 28 hours per week. To apply, please send a town application, resume, and cover letter to the Town Manager, by email as a PDF to sbeckley@townofware.com, or by mail to Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082. Applications will be received until the position is filled, with priority given to applications received by December 28, 2021



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TOWN OF WALES CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, a Public Hearing will be held by the Wales Conservation Commission on **December 16, 2021** at the Wales Senior Center (Old Stafford Rd., Wales, MA) at 6:00 PM, for a **Notice of Intent** filed by Cormier and Sons Construction and Homebuilding, LLC., located at **21 Old County Rd., Wales, MA 01081**, for the construction of a single family home, driveway, septic, well and associated grading. Virtual participation information will be available on the Town of Wales website or contact conservation@town-ofwales.net. 12/09/2021

Town of Wales Conservation Commission

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, a Public Hearing will be held by the Wales Conservation Commission on **December 16, 2021**, at the Wales Senior Center (Old

Stafford Rd. Wales, MA) at **6:00 PM**, for a Notice of Intent filed by the Dianne Jaworski, located at 21 Shore Dr. Wales, MA 01081, regarding a septic repair/replacement. Virtual participation information will be available on the Town of Wales website or contact conservation@townofwales.net. 12/9/2021

TOWN OF WALES CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, a Public Hearing will be held by the Wales Conservation Commission on **December 16, 2021**, at the Wales Senior Center (Old Stafford Rd., Wales, MA) at **6:00 PM**, for a **Notice of Intent** filed by Cormier and Sons Construction and Homebuilding, LLC., located at **23 Old County Rd., Wales, MA 01081**, for the construction of a single family home, driveway, septic, well and associated grading. Virtual participation information will be available on the Town of Wales website or contact conservation@town-ofwales.net. 12/09/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758**
Docket No. HD21P2233EA
Estate of:
Carol P. Darnley
Also known as:
Carol Elizabeth Darnley
Date of Death: 10/29/2021
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **William E. Darnley of Turners Falls, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **William E. Darnley of Turners Falls, MA**

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/24/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 26, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/09/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD21P2238GD**
**In the interests of
Ryder Scott Demetrius of Monson, MA**
Minor
NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition for

Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **11/24/2021** by

April M Demetrius of Wales, MA;
Scott N Demetrius of Wales, MA
will be held **12/30/2021 08:30 AM Motion**. Located: **Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street 4th Floor Springfield MA**

2. Response to Petition:
You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and
Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents:
If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Date: November 24, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
11/30/17

Town of Wales
In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, a Public Hearing will be held by the Wales Conservation Commission on **December 16, 2021**, at the Wales Senior Center (Old Stafford Rd. Wales, MA) at 6:00 PM, for a Notice of Intent filed by Massachusetts Electric Company for the installation of poles and tree removal located along a public way near Stafford-Holland and Old County Rd. Wales, MA 01081. Virtual participation information will be avail-

able on the Town of Wales website or contact conservation@townofwales.net. 12/09/2021

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Wetlands and Waterways
Western Region
1 Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108**

Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 and M.G.L. c. 21 §§ 26-53, notice is given of a Section 401 Water Quality Certification application for the Wales Bridge Replacement Project located approximately 280 feet east of the Main Street (Route 19)/Holland Road intersection within the Town of Wales, Massachusetts, by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division, 10 Park Plaza, Suite 4260, Boston, MA, 02116. The project proposes to replace the existing bridge that spans Wales Brook. Replacing the bridge is required for the current operations and usage to continue. Additional information may be obtained from Melissa Lenker at the above address. Written comments should be sent to MassDEP, Western Regional Office, Attention Heidi Davis, 1 Winter Street, Boston, MA 02108 within 21 days of this notice. Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments may appeal the Department's Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing. 12/09/2021

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

Early Deadlines

for all PUBLIC NOTICES...

All Papers Will Deadline Friday, Dec. 17 at Noon for Publication Dec. 22-24

Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 23 at Noon for Publication Dec. 29-31

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3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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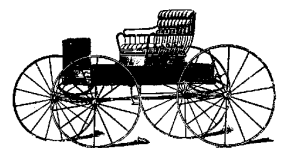
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Winter Market at Jabish Brook next week

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market Board announced its "Winter Market at Jabish Brook" will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12, at the Jabish Brook Middle School cafeteria located at 62 N. Washington Street, Belchertown.

"We have invited all of our summer market vendors plus some new artisans to join us," said Douthwright, President of the Market Board.

"We expect our farmers to have apples, meats, eggs, kale, mushrooms, potatoes, onions and other cold weather crops. Our artisans will help round out your holiday shopping list, giving you the opportunity to shop local and give unique items during the holiday season."

Organizers are hoping to create a magical indoor winter market, like a European Christmas market. There will be variety of artisans, and also a selection of maple syrup, cheeses, honey, jarred salsa, jams and jellies, dog treats, spice mixes, local bread, and the fruits and veggies.

A selection of meats and roasts will be available for those family gatherings. Also dried wreaths, potted bulbs and floral bouquets for your holiday tables.

Be sure to follow Belchertown Farmers Artisans Market on Facebook and Instagram and sign up for their newsletter to get the latest updates and learn about their amazing vendors and wonderful products. Stay up to date on what the vendors will have to offer each week.

Newsletter sign up available at belchertownfarmersmarket.org.

Belchertown Farmers and Artisans Market, Inc. is a nonprofit organization which provides a unique venue for the public to purchase foods and other products directly from local producers in an enjoyable and friendly atmosphere.

Straw Dog Writers Guild to Support an Emerging Writer

REGION – Straw Dog Writers Guild, a coopera-
tive organization of working creative writers in Western
Massachusetts, will grant an emerging writer of fiction a
\$3000 stipend and other professional benefits for a
full year, beginning in May 2022. Applications are now
open at <https://www.strawdogwriters.org/emerging-writers>.

Now in its second cycle, the Emerging Writer Fel-
lowship Program will award the grant and benefits to a
woman or gender expansive writer of color who is
based in Western Massachusetts and in the early stag-
es of their career. The Fellowship was created to help
emerging writers negotiate barriers that may prevent
them from accessing mentorship and pursuing publica-
tion of their work.

The award recipient will receive the grant to cover
writing related expenses, along with a membership in
Straw Dog through 2023 and access to mentors who
can help with the craft of writing, publishing, and pro-
moting their work, or with other needs as determined.

The recipient will also receive a professional web-
site designed by Valley of Writers <https://www.valley-ofwriters.com/> and hosted for three years.

The Fellowship includes the opportunity to read
their work at Guild events, teach in the Guild's work-
shop program, and shape the artistic vision of the Guild
as it grows.

Applicants should be 18 years old or older,
self-identify as a woman or gender expansive writer of
color who demonstrates a passion for writing fiction but
has not published a book nor has one under contract.
They must currently live in either Franklin, Hampshire,
Hamden, or Berkshire County.

The process for application includes the comple-
tion of an application form and the submission of a
writing sample between Nov. 1 and Dec. 30 of this year.

Finalists will participate in an interview with Fel-
lowship Committee members before the recipient is
selected.

The Fellowship recipient will be announced by the
Committee on March 1, 2022, and the term of the Fel-
lowship will run from May 2022 until May 2023.

For further details and an application form please
follow the link below: Straw Dog Writers Guild Emerg-
ing Writers Fellowship

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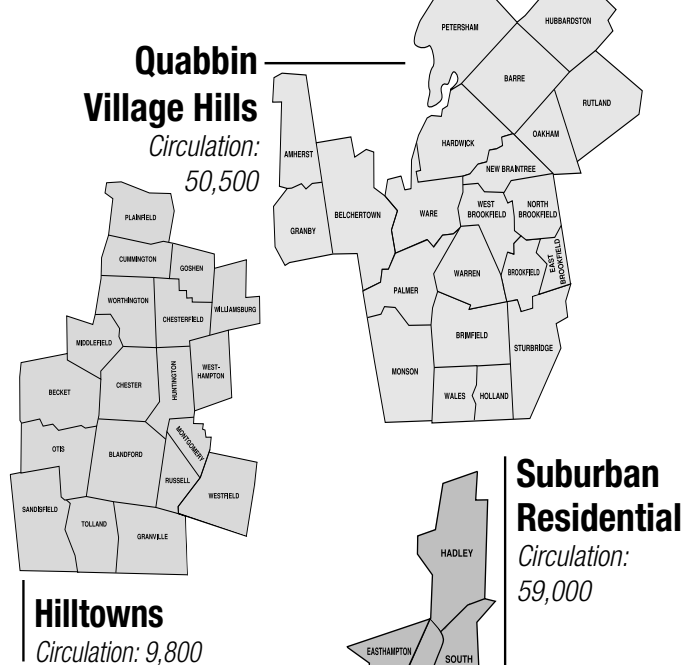
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STUFF the cruiser



Turley Publications photo by Michael Harrison
Lori Chiacchia, Lianna Carrasquillo, and Bella Nompleggi hold up some of the many toys donated at the Stuff the Cruiser drive.





Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus greet the children as they step off a Three Rivers Fire Dept. truck.



Ainsley Pobieglo and Sara Wystepok visit with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus.



Members of Colby Academy of Dance perform for the crowd at Hryniewicz Park.

Turley Publications photo by Kayleigh Thomas

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